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Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

Letter dated 13 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement issued by the President of the Russian Federation on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the statement circulated as a document of the seventieth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 103.

(*Signed*) V. **Churkin**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 13 April 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the President of the Russian Federation on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

11 April 2016

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. The drawing-up of this document was a major triumph of international diplomacy and a testament to its effectiveness in solving the most pressing problems of global security.

The Treaty is a key mechanism for nuclear arms limitation and nuclear non-proliferation, and it is crucial to strengthening international stability. However, it is disturbing to note that the Treaty has not yet entered into force. Its future largely depends on a genuine commitment by all members of the international community to moving forward towards the stated goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world. The eight States whose ratification of the Treaty is mandatory for its entry into force bear special responsibility in this regard.

Those States' reluctance to become full parties to the Treaty is deeply regrettable, especially as some of them lay claim to leadership and have all but asserted special powers in addressing global security issues. Once again, we call upon their authorities to show real political will and to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible.

For Russia, which ratified the Treaty in 2000 and has consistently supported it and the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization, the speedy entry into force of the Treaty is a matter of priority. We hope that, in this year of the Treaty's anniversary, positive steps will be taken in that direction.

Vladimir **Putin**